

27 July 2001

Mr. Benjamin Gregson
Impact Area Groundwater Study Program
565/567 West Outer Perimeter Road
Camp Edwards, MA 02542

RE: Cleanup Level for Perchlorate in Groundwater at Camp Edwards on the Massachusetts
Military Reservation

Dear Mr. Gregson:

As you are aware, the compound perchlorate has been detected in groundwater samples collected from several monitoring wells as part of the Impact Area Groundwater Study (IAGS). Most notably, perchlorate has been detected up to 300 micrograms per liter (ug/l) within the Demolition Area 1 groundwater plume, and in groundwater from the Central Impact Area and Southeast Corner of the Ranges. In addition, perchlorate has been detected in monitoring well samples collected off base between the Southeast Corner of the Ranges and Snake Pond.

At the present time, no federally-promulgated Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) or Health Advisory (HA) has been established for perchlorate in groundwater. In the interim, EPA New England has instructed the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to rely on the currently available provisional reference dose (RfD) range of 0.0001 to 0.0005 mg/kg-day for the evaluation of harm to human health.

Subsequently, EPA New England has also been conducting an independent review of all available data and has consulted with national EPA guidance and personnel, as well as Regional EPA policy. In applying the current provisional reference dose range to a sole-source aquifer, EPA New England has determined that for this compound, a small child would be the most appropriate individual to consider when developing a groundwater cleanup level for Camp Edwards. The resulting groundwater cleanup level which EPA believes protective of individuals potentially exposed to perchlorate in drinking water at Camp Edwards is, therefore, equal to 1.5 ppb (see attached supporting information). This cleanup level is achievable by currently available technology, and should be used by the NGB for all future groundwater cleanup technology and alternative evaluations.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 918-1358.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Borci
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

cc: L. Pinaud/MA DEP
R. Gill/AFCEE
S. Levinson/EPA
J. Dolan/EPA
M. Jasinski/EPA
M. Adams/EPA
B. Walsh-Rogalski/EPA

Attachments: (1) Memorandum from EPA Region 1 Risk Assessor Sarah Levinson to EPA MMR Technical Project Coordinator Todd Borci, dated 26 July 2001.

(2) Memorandum on "Interim Assessment Guidance for Perchlorate" from EPA Assistant Administrator Norine Noonan to all EPA Regions, dated 18 January 1999.